

REMARKS

After entry of this Amendment, the pending claims are claims 1-5, 7, 8 and 12, of which claim 1 is in independent form. Claims 21 and 22 have been cancelled.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Cancellation of Claims

The Examiner requested cancellation of claims 21 and 22. Accordingly, Applicants have canceled claims 21 and 22, without prejudice, and have changed the status identifiers for claims 21 and 22.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and §103(a)

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,060,114 to Matsushima ("the Matsushima '114 patent"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of the Matsushima '114 patent. Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly define Applicants' invention. Claim 1 now recites "a borehole coextensive with the groove, wherein the borehole has an uninterrupted, closed end."

Applicants respectfully submit that the Matsushima '114 patent does not disclose, teach or suggest all of the limitations of claim 1. Specifically, there is no disclosure, teaching or suggestion in the Matsushima '114 patent of a borehole which has an uninterrupted, closed end. Moreover, the Matsushima '114 patent teaches away from such a construction. The Matsushima '114 patent discusses the disadvantage of the prior art stating that "when the elastic force of the spring has become weakened after repeated tightening operation over a long period of time, exchange of the spring cannot be effected at ease" (col. 1, lines 24-31). The Matsushima '114 patent also states that it is an object of the invention to enable replacement of an old spring with a spare spring when the old spring becomes weak through use (col. 1, lines 47-51). In particular, the Matsushima '114 patent discloses various

structures for replacing a worn spring, including (1) a through-hole 9 in communication with the end of the small passage 4 (Fig. 1, col. 3, lines 40-46); (2) a small port 22 in communication with a small passage 16 (Fig. 4, col. 4, lines 38-43), (3) a groove 30 with a rear end 34, wherein the groove 30 is in communication with a through-hole 29 (Figs. 8, 9 and 11, col. 5, lines 8-13), and (4) a transverse hole 39 at the innermost end of the small passage 37 (Fig. 14, col. 6, lines 2-5). Therefore, the Matsushima '114 patent teaches away from incorporating a borehole with an uninterrupted, closed end into a device for securing a screw.

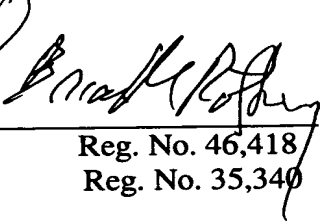
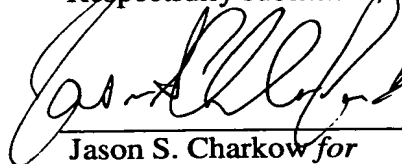
As all the features recited in independent claim 1, as amended, are not disclosed, taught or suggested by the Matsushima '114 patent, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the Matsushima '114 patent. Dependent claims 2-5, 7, 8 and 12 depend from independent claim 1 and are allowable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with claim 1.

In light of Applicants' amendments and remarks, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns regarding the amendments, remarks or the above-identified application, then a telephonic interview with the undersigned is respectfully requested to discuss any such questions or concerns and to accelerate the allowance of the above-identified application.

No fee is believed due for this submission. However, should any fee be required,
please charge all such fees to Jones Day Deposit Account No. 50-3013.

Date: February 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,



Jason S. Charkow for

Reg. No. 46,418

Brian M. Rothery

Reg. No. 35,340

JONES DAY

222 East 41st Street

New York, New York 10017

(212) 326-3939